GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3728
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Theft and Blackmarketing of Coal
Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of theft and blackmarketing of coal have been reported in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during each of the last three years and the current year and loss of coal and revenue as a result thereof, company and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES.

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)to(c):Theft/pilferage of coal, if any, is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. Few complaints on black marketing/diversion of coal have been reported from North Eastern Coalfields, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, etc. Complaints are investigated and appropriate action including lodging of FIRs, referring cases to Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation, discontinuation of coal supply to the units/companies involved in such illegal activities, systematic measures for improvement of monitoring/verification of the units receiving coal under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) etc., are taken.

As per the New Coal Distribution Policy, CIL is required to verify status of erstwhile linked consumers to check the veracity of their claim of being bonafide consumers of coal and thereafter conclude FSA. In December, 2012, the Board of CIL has already prescribed modality for submission of certificate of end use by FSA holders duly signed by Chartered Accountants.

However, when any incident of theft/pilferage of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies, First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged and action taken against the guilty. As such it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and loss of revenue incurred on account of theft/pilferage of coal. As per raids conducted by the security personnel as well as joint raids with the law & order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value as reported by Coal India Limited(CIL) during the last three years and the current year (upto September, 2016)(provisional), year-wise, company-wise and State-wise, is given as under :

Name of the Company State 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 (upto September, 2016) (Provisional)
Qty. recovered (te) Approx. value
(Rs. in Lakh) Qty. recovered (te) Approx value (Rs. in Lakh) Qty. recovered (te) Approx value (Rs. in Lakh) Qty. recovered (te) Approxvalue (Rs. in Lakh)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) West Bengal 1801.00 36.02 2229.60 44.64 4993.27 249.67 3733.01 186.66
Jharkhand 2068.00 41.36 2188.72 43.79 2645.78 132.32 1835.23 91.77
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) Jharkhand 12212.86 497.60 13812.17 585.04 12071.40 529.67 6340.51 273.89
West Bengal 39.51 1.66 179.46 7.54 445.84 20.54 285.67 12.09
Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) Jharkhand 352.40 8.22 940.00 24.37 99.00 1.05 0.00 0.00
Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) Maharashtra 61.81 0.94 133.36 2.79 53.00 1.12 106.80 2.22
Madhya Pradesh 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) Madhya Pradesh 21.01 1.02 49.53 1.95 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
Chhattisgarh 39.00 1.06 3.00 0.12 57.50 2.11 25.00 1.50
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd(MCL) Odisha 33.23 0.33 74.30 0.72 63.10 0.63 44.10 0.24
North Eastern Coalfield (NEC) Assam 212.00 11.62 13.03 0.62 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000
Coal India Limited 16840.82 599.83 19623.17 711.58 20428.89 937.11 12370.32 568.37

Further, Law & Order is a State subject and hence, primarily, it is the responsibility of State/District administration to take deterrent action to stop/curb theft/pilferage of coal. The coal companies are working in close coordination with the State/local administration to prevent theft of coal. Measures taken by the coal companies to check theft/pilferage of coal include:

i) Check posts have been established at entry/exit points where all coal loaded vehicles are physically checked.
ii) Technology initiatives like Global Positioning System(GPS)/ General Packet Radio Service(GPRS)/ Closed Circuit Televisions

(CCTVs) and electronic weigh-bridges have been installed to check the problem of theft/pilferage at mines, sidings and transportation.
iii) Security at coal dumps has been improved by wall fencing, proper illumination and round the clock guarding.
iv) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
v) Regular raids/checks are being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are deployed at pithead depots.
vi) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law & order authorities of the State Government concerned.
vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
viii) Installation of check posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
ix) Maintaining close coordination with the State/local authorities.
x) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including overburden dumps.
xi) Armed guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
xii) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.
xiii) Regular FIRs are lodged by the management of the collieries and CISF with local police stations against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is kept by CISF.
xiv) Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF in pilferage prone areas, etc.

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